

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ASMARA 00850 080753Z

12

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05

PC-01 /071 W

----- 029859

R 080600Z OCT 75

FM AMCONSUL ASMARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3617

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON

COMNAVTELCOM WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN

COMIDEASTFOR

NAVCOMMUNIT ASMARA

NAVCOMMSTA NEA MAKRI

CNO WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L ASMARA 0850

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS ET

SUBJECT: EVENTS IN ERITREA

1. ASMARA AND SURROUNDING AREA HAVE BEEN EXCEPTIONALLY QUIET SINCE SEPT. 19 INCIDENT IN WHICH 18 PEOPLE REPORTEDLY KILLED. THERE HAVE BEEN NO REPORTS OF ASSASSINATIONS, NO FIREFIGHTS, AND NO EPMG RETALIATION IN OR AROUND ASMARA. DURATION OF THIS LULL HAS LED TO SPECULATION AS TO ITS ORIGINS. FOLLOWING IS LIST OF LOCAL EXPLANATIONS FOR CALM: (A) RAMADAN FAST (WHICH ENDED OCT. 6) PRECLUDED VIOLENCE; (B) FRONT STILL AWAITING OUTCOME OF EVENTS IN ADDIS WHICH MIGHT LEAD TO CHANGE OF POLICY TOWARD ERITREA; (C) ELF/PLF UNIFICATION TALKS IN EARLY SEPT ACTUALLY LED TO WIDENING OF DIFFERENCES, THEREBY FORESTALLING JOINT INITIATIVES IN
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 ASMARA 00850 080753Z

FIELD; (D) BG GETACHEW'S WEEK-LONG ABSENCE IN ADDIS INITIATED

CALM; AND SINCE HIS RETURN (SEPT. 30) HE HAS NOT CHOSEN TO REINITIATE VIOLENCE; (E) BOTH SIDES REGROUPING FOR RENEWED ACTIVITY; AND (F) FRONT CONCERNED THAT ANY ACTION MIGHT RESULT IN EPMG RETALIATION AGAINST ERITREAN CEREAL CROPS (WHICH SHOULD BE HARVESTED WITHIN MONTH). LAST TWO MOST PERSUASIVE, BUT WHATEVER REASONS FOR CALM, RESIDENTS OF ASMARA APPRECIATE RESPITE IN WHICH TO TAKE DEEP BREATH AND TRY TO CONDUCT NORMAL BUSINESS. NONETHELESS, LONG SPELL OF QUIET IS NOT PARTICULARLY REASSURING TO ANY PARTY, AS ALL EXPECT PEACE TO BE SHATTERED IN NEAR FUTURE.

2. RUMORS ARE WIDESPREAD OF HEAVY FIGHTING IN SAHIL REGION, IN WHICH LOCAL SOURCES, AS USUAL, CLAIM EPMG SUFFERED SEVERE SETBACK. RUMORS INCLUDE REPORT THAT NAFKA HAS BEEN EVACUATED BY EPMG AND THAT ENTIRE SAHIL DISTRICT HAS BEEN "LIBERATED." ONE REPORT ALSO CLAIMS FRONT EMPLOYED ARMORED VEHICLES IN SAHIL FIGHTING.

3. COMMENT: WHILE NO ONE CAN BE CERTAIN AS TO REASON FOR CURRENT LULL, CONGEN BELIEVES THAT IT WILL NOT LAST LONG. WE WOULD NOT, HOWEVER, SPECULATE AS TO WHEN OR HOW QUIET MIGHT BE BROKEN. RE SAHIL FIGHTING, CONGEN, WHILE SERIOUSLY DOUBTING FRONT USE OF ARMORED VEHICLES, WOULD APPRECIATE ANY INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO EMBASSY, POSSIBLE FROM EPMG SOURCES, ON CURRENT MILITARY SITUATION IN SAHIL.
SHERRY

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SITUATION, DEATHS, ALLEGATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 OCT 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975ASMARA00850
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750349-0173
From: ASMARA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751072/aaaacita.tel
Line Count: 87
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: KelleyW0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24 JUN 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <13 NOV 2003 by KelleyW0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EVENTS IN ERITREA
TAGS: PINS, ET
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006